

URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL OF SHEPLEY.

ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1920.

HUDDERSFIELD:

WHEATLEY, DYSON & SON, PRINTERS, NEW STREET.



# ANNUAL REPORT

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OF

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

## SHEPLEY URBAN DISTRICT

For the Year Ending December 31st, 1920.

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*To the Shepley Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

POPULATION.—The population at the Census in 1911 was 1,879, and the estimated population to April 1st, 1921, for birth and death rate calculation is 1,833.

The actual deaths of residents numbered 24, which includes 2 inward transfers, and the births 37, so that the population shows an increase.

### Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The township of Shepley has an acreage of 1,247 acres, almost two-thirds of which is under cultivation. This gives employment to a certain number of its population, the majority of whom, however, are employed in the woollen mills.

BIRTHS.—There were 37 births registered during the year, 16 of these being males and 21 females. This shows a

large increase on the number registered during 1919, which was 19. This gives a birth rate of 20.2 per 1,000 of the population, the birth rate for England and Wales being 25.4.

**DEATHS.**—The number of deaths registered during the year as having actually occurred in the township was 22, and to those must be added 2 inward transfers. These were of people actually belonging to the township, but who died and were registered elsewhere—one at Dean House Workhouse and one at Bradley Lane Nursing Home, Huddersfield. This gives a death rate of 13.1 per 1,000 of the population, the death rate for England and Wales being 12.4 per 1,000.

The deaths occurred at the following age periods:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	3
25 years and under 45 years	...	...	...	4
45 years and under 65 years	...	...	...	9
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	8
				—
		TOTAL	...	24
				—

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**—As there were 3 deaths of children under 1 year and the number of births was 37, this gives an infantile mortality of 81.08. The infantile mortality for the West Riding for 1919, according to the report of the County Medical Officer, was 100, and the estimated rate for 1920 for England and Wales is 80.

**CAUSES OF DEATHS AS REGISTERED:—**

Bronchitis	...	...	...	4
Cancer	...	...	...	4
Heart Disease	...	...	...	6
Senile Decay	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Influenza and Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
Phthisis Pulmonalis	...	...	...	3
Hemiplegia	...	...	...	1
Rupture of Aortic Aneurism	...	...	...	1
Sclerosis of Spinal Cord	...	...	...	1
Inanition from Birth	...	...	...	1
				—
		TOTAL	...	24
				—

In so prosperous a district poor law relief is not much required. The Huddersfield Infirmary, the Tuberculosis Dispensaries, and the Clinic at Kirkburton are all taken advantage of. The nurses appointed by the West Riding County Council afford valuable assistance in their special work.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

**WATER.**—The greater portion of the water supply of the district is provided by the Huddersfield Corporation, and is well maintained and of good quality. Parts of the village are still supplied by water from wells. The quality of this water in each case is good, no contamination has been observed, and the supply is fairly constant. The water supply at Dobroyd has been attended to by the Council.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—There is only one small stream, which runs through the centre of the village, and no contamination has been observed.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—Now that Dobroyd is included in the already existing scheme of drainage and sewerage with outfall works at Cote Close, the sanitary condition of the sewage disposal is satisfactory.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**—There are 4 privies with open middens and 277 with covered middens. The number of water closets is 70, one having been provided for old property during the year.

**SCAVENGING.**—A system of monthly scavenging has been adopted, and this is a great improvement on the former method. There are some tips, but the disposal is mostly carried out by the farmers.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.**—The sanitary condition of the district has been so satisfactory that the Sanitary Inspector has not called for my intervention on any occasion.

He reports as follows:—

Visits—

To Premises where no nuisances were found	265
,,    ,,    nuisances were found	31
,,    Slaughterhouses	13
,,    Butchers' Shops	14
,,    Works in progress	27
,,    Property under notice	172
,,    Owners	25
,,    Cowsheds	52
,,    Workshops	23
,,    Van Dwellings	18
,,    Infected Houses	3
,,    Piggeries	22
Under Sale of Food and Drugs Act	15
	—
	TOTAL ...
	680
	—

36 nuisances upon 31 premises were found, viz.:—

Insanitary Closets	...	...	...	5
,,    Ashpits	...	...	...	3
Choked Drains	...	...	...	2
Offensive Deposits	...	...	...	3
Dampness	...	...	...	3
Inadequate Water Supply	...	...	...	4
Fouling of Water Supply	...	...	...	1
Cowsheds requiring Limewashing	...	...	...	13
Defective Ventilation	...	...	...	2
	—			
	TOTAL ...			36
	—			

24 nuisances upon 23 premises have been abated.

12     ,,     ,,     8     ,,     are in hand.

Town's water has been laid on to property at Dobroyd and Lorne Villas.

HOUSING.—A second survey was made by the County Council Inspectors prior to the holding of a Housing Inquiry by the Ministry of Health. 376 houses were visited. The following details were given as to the total of 39 houses stated to be required to meet the need of the district:—

Houses unfit and not repairable	...	...	7
,, with 2 or more families living in them			12
People wanting houses in district	...	...	14
To meet average growth of population	...	...	6
			—
	TOTAL	...	39

T. E. WILLIAMS,  
Sanitary Inspector.

An effort should be made to organise the Public Health work. Provision of an office and telephone for the Sanitary Inspector are absolutely essential.

I should like to add to the above that the Sanitary Inspector *should be provided with necessary apparatus for drain testing.*

**Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled  
by Bye-laws and Regulations.**

There are 3 woollen mills in the district and several tailors' workshops, all of which are inspected regularly and found satisfactory.

**SCHOOLS.**—There is one public elementary school in the district of modern structure, the sanitary condition and water supply of which leave nothing to be desired. There has been no serious epidemic amongst the scholars, and I have not found it necessary to close the school during 1920.

**Food.**

**MILK SUPPLY.**—The quality of the milk produced within or imported into the district is satisfactory. One case of adulteration, however, came under our notice.

In June the Sanitary Inspector and myself carried out an inspection of all the cowsheds and farm buildings in the township and gave necessary instructions under the provisions of the Act in regard to whitewashing and any alterations required. The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders are efficiently administered. No action has been necessary under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

**OTHER FOODS.**—Food inspection is regularly carried out, and no action has been necessary.

There is 1 slaughterhouse and 3 butchers' shops. I inspect the meat every week, and the quality has been satisfactory.

There is no public abattoir.

### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.—During 1920 there were a number of cases of measles which mostly occurred during the months of July and August, but no other disease showed any danger of becoming epidemic.

I append a table of the notifications received under—

#### The Infectious Diseases Act.

Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	2
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Measles ..	...	...	...	26
Erysipelas ..	...	...	...	3
Mumps ...	...	...	...	2
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	1
Phthisis Pulmonalis ...	...	...	...	5
				—
			TOTAL ...	43
				—

The two cases of diphtheria were treated at home, and I administered anti-diphtheritic serum, and in both cases a satisfactory recovery was made. The case of scarlet fever was removed to the Kirkburton Isolation Hospital.

There was no influenza epidemic, and only one death was registered as having been caused by influenza, which in this case was complicated by pneumonia.

The sanitary arrangements in regard to disinfection are efficiently carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

The Pathological Department of the West Riding County Council gave me valuable assistance in bacteriological examination.

TUBERCULOSIS.—The notification of tuberculosis is successfully carried out by the medical practitioners in the

district. Five cases were notified as suffering from this disease during the year. Of these, one case was sent to a sanatorium, and the others have all taken advantage of the Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

**SMALL POX.**—The number of primary vaccinations performed by me during the year was 18, and there were no re-vaccinations.

### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

As stated above, a number of cases of measles occurred during the year, but by the end of August they had practically disappeared, and from then till the end of the year only one other case of measles occurred.

There is no organised scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare in the township of Shepley. The needs of the district in this respect are amply provided for by the Clinic at Kirkburton, which serves the surrounding townships, and by the services of the West Riding County Council Nurses in their various capacities.

### **Sanitary Administration.**

1. **STAFF.**—There is one Inspector of Nuisances, who also carries out the disinfection of houses.

2. **THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL** at Kirkburton is available for patients from Shepley, but as already stated, only one case was removed there during the year.

3. All the Acts required by the Ministry of Health are in force, and no local acts specially applicable to the district have been required.

4. The Pathological Department of the West Riding County Council and also of the Huddersfield Infirmary have been utilised freely during the year.

### **Housing.**

**GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.**—There are in the district 485 houses, of which 450 are for the working classes. No new houses have been built during the year.

After the surveys made by the County Council Inspectors, a Housing Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Health ; the result of this inquiry was that there is an estimated shortage in the district of 39 houses.

Last year the Council had a scheme for the erection of a number of houses to meet the shortage, but, so far, building operations have not been commenced.

All necessary details in regard to housing work during 1920 will be found in the accompanying Table D.

#### **General Remarks.**

The general health of the district during the period covered by this report is quite satisfactory, and the various duties which fall to be carried out by the Urban District Council have been efficiently attended to.

The housing question, which has assumed such importance within the last few years, will no doubt be dealt with in as satisfactory a manner as possible.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEX. J. KENNEDY,  
Medical Officer of Health.

**TABLE "C," 1920.****SHEPLEY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.****WATER SUPPLY—**

Any developments during 1920 ? No.

Any insufficiency, and where ? No. Several occupiers still obtain water from wells. Where Corporation water is available, it should be provided.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where ? No.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—**

Any developments during 1920 ? A sewer has now been provided for property at Dobroyd.

Developments still needed as to want of sewers ? Nil. Improvement of Defective Sewers ? Nil.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells ? No.

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection ? Very few.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—**

No. of Privies with open middens ? 4.

No. of Pail or Tub Closets ? None.

No. of Privies with covered middens ? 277.

No. of Water Closets ? 70.

Waste-water Closets ? None.

No. of Privies re-constructed during 1920 ? (a) as w.c.'s None. (b) Other None.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1920 ? (a) w.c.'s One. (b) Other None.

No. of Closets constructed in 1920 for new houses ? (a) w.c.'s None. (b) Other None.

**SCAVENGING—**

Any change during 1920 ? A system of monthly scavenging has been adopted.

Performed by (a) Council ? Yes. (b) Contractor ? No. How is refuse disposed of ?

No. of loads to (a) Destructor None. (b) Tips Some. (c) Farmers mostly (460 loads).

Total annual cost ? £160 10s. 9d.

Is there any inadequacy, and where ? No.

Any utilization or salvage of waste material ? No.

#### NUISANCE INSPECTIONS—

Total No. of inspections made in 1920 ? 680.

Informal Notices served ? 31. Complied with ? 23.

Statutory Notices served ? None.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1919 ? Three.

At close of 1920 ? 12.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1920 ? 36.

Abated during 1920 ? 24

Total No. of Summons or other legal proceedings ?  
None.

#### REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.

Tents, Vans and Sheds—Total No. of inspections made ?

18 visits were made to Van Dwellings remaining for a few days.

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, e.g., Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, &c. ? No.

#### SCHOOLS—

Schools visited by M.O.H. ? Shepley Council School (Senior and Infants' Departments).

Action taken ? None. Schools closed ? None.

#### MILK SUPPLY—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts ? 10. No. adulterated ? One.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination ? None.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows ? M.O.H. to call in expert if desired.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1920 ? No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district ? 17. No. registered ? 17.

No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers ? 17. No. who are Purveyors only ? Total No. registered ? 17.

Total No. of Cowsheds ? 19. No. of Inspections in 1920 ? 52. General condition ? Fair.

Approximate No. of Milch Cows in district ? 177.

Any insufficiency in Milk Supply ? No.

Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders ? None.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent ? No.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1920, Any action ? No.

#### OTHER FOODS—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Acts ? None.

No. of seizures of unsound food ? None. Kind and quantity ? None.

No. of prosecutions ? None.

No. of Slaughterhouses ? 1. No. registered ? 1.

No. of Bakehouses ? Two.

Is there a Public Abattoir ? No.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

Any Smoke nuisance, and where ? No.

No. of Smoke observations taken ? None.

#### ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Any adopted or revised during 1920 ? No.

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES—

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1920 ?

Measles, in July and August.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list ? No.

Any influences threatening the health of the District ? No.

#### TUBERCULOSIS—

Inspection of patient's home and workshop ? Yes.

Is house disinfected ? Yes.

When ? After any cases removed to Sanatorium or after any death.

Distribution of advice leaflets ? No.

Action *re* spitting ? Notices displayed.

Is sputum examined ? Yes.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries—Any suggestions ? No.

#### BACTERIOLOGY—

Is County Laboratory utilised ? Yes. Any suggestions ? No.

## INFANT MORTALITY—

What organised effort to control it ? None.  
 Any voluntary centres for Child or Mother Welfare ?  
 Kirkburton.  
 Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1920 ? None.

## VITAL STATISTICS—

Births during 1920— Males, 16 ; Females, 21 ; Total, 37.  
 No. of illegitimate included in above ? 2.  
 No. of Still Births (not included) ? None.

Deaths during 1920—(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the District without any correction ? 22.  
 (2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated ?  
 Males, 13 ; Females, 11 ; Total, 24.  
 No. of uncertified deaths (included above) ? None.

## MORTUARIES—

What Mortuary accommodation—(a) for accidents ?  
 None. (b) For infectious cases other than at hospital ? None.

## SANITARY STAFF—

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H. ? £20.  
 Name of Sanitary Inspector ? Thomas Edwin Williams.  
 Annual Salary as Inspector ? £64 10s.  
 Other appointments held ? Sanitary Inspector for four neighbouring districts (combined for sanitary purposes.)  
 Salary for such other appointments ? £235 10s.  
 Any Assistants ? No.  
 Is Staff sufficient ? It is not possible for the whole of the Public Health and Housing Work to be efficiently carried out in the area, as a consequence of the department not being organised.

### Summary of Housing Work during 1920.

---

No. of Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1919?

Not reasonably fit for human habitation, 14.

Totally unfit for human habitation, 7.

Houses with minor defects, 21.

No. of Houses inspected under the Act and regulations in 1919? 376.

No. of Houses found satisfactory on inspection? 308.

No. of Houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation under 1909 and 1910 Acts? 7.

No. of Houses for which notices were given to execute works? 7.

No. of Houses found with defects? 54

No. made fit after preliminary notice? None.

No. in regard to which notices were served to remedy defects? 54.

No. of Houses made fit after notice? None.

No. found unfit for habitation? 7.

No. of Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1920?

Not reasonably fit for human habitation, 7.

Houses with minor defects, 54.

Totally unfit for human habitation, 7.

Total number of houses in district, 485. Number of working-class houses, 450. General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. I., 1919? Fair.

Obstructive Buildings.—Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act? No.

Any building represented by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 38 (2)? No.

Re-construction Schemes.—Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act? No.

Unfit Houses.—Any complaints by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 31 of 1890 Act? No.

Any scarcity of houses, and if so, where? General.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and if so, where?

It appears there are six houses overcrowded on 300 cubic feet basis; seven on Registrar General's standard; ten morally overcrowded.

No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1920 ? None.

Any special activity in house building, and where ? No.

No. of new houses built during 1920 ? None.

State-aided Housing Schemes.—Has Scheme been submitted as required by Section 1 of 1919 Act ? No. Estimated need for houses. Scheme for houses.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Sec. 17 (7) ? No. Any action in respect of such rooms ? No.

Town Planning.—Any scheme prepared during 1920 ? No.

Any scheme contemplated ? None.

Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ? Thomas Edwin Williams, Station Road, Shepley.



